

**Amendments to the Claims :**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A fastening device for securing ~~[[a]]~~ at least one fuel assembly in a housing of a transport basket, ~~the assembly having a polygonal section and comprising an upper end piece and a lower end piece and the housing having a tubular wall of polygonal section comprising an first open end and a second end~~, the fastening device comprising:

~~a connecting device integral with the fastening device~~ a single connecting device located above an upper end piece of the fuel assembly, the single connecting device including first clamping members selectively pivotable between a retracted position and an extended position, wherein the first clamping members engage the upper end piece of the fuel assembly when in the extended position and ~~and configured to make a rigid connection between the upper end piece of the fuel assembly and the open end of the housing of the transport basket-housing in a predetermined relative position such that the single connecting device positions the upper end piece of the fuel assembly bears to bear directly in contact with two adjacent faces of the housing when the first clamping members are in the retracted position and suspends the fuel assembly within the housing when the housing is oriented substantially vertically. on at least part of its length, the connecting device being placed above the upper end piece of the fuel assembly and configured to suspend the fuel assembly at the upper end piece, a part of the housing located proximal to the second end of the housing and having a smaller cross section compared to the first end, wherein the second end has dimensions approximately equal to dimensions of the lower end piece of the fuel assembly.~~

22-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The fastening device according to claim 21, in which the single connecting device further comprises a plurality of second clamping members selectively pivotable between a retracted position and an extended position, wherein the second clamping members engage the open end of the tubular wall when in the extended position. ~~is configured to be fixed on the upper end piece of the assembly by first clamping means and to be fixed in the open end of the housing tubular wall by second clamping means.~~

27. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The fastening device according to claim 26, in which the connecting device includes transverse displacement means configured to move the upper end piece of the assembly in a direction transverse with respect to the housing towards the two adjacent faces of the housing and away from them.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The fastening device according to claim 27, in which the connecting device includes axial displacement means configured to move the assembly in a direction axial with respect to the housing, away from the second end of the housing and towards the second end.

29. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 28, in which the first clamping means, the second clamping means, the means for transverse displacement, and the means for axial displacement are activated by separate control devices configured to be maneuvered separately.

30. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 29, in which

the connecting device has a longitudinal axis configured to be oriented parallel to the longitudinal axis of the fuel assembly, and the first clamping means comprises

jaws configured to move onto a first part of the connecting device along directions approximately radial with respect to the axis,

the second clamping means comprises

a bayonet ring configured to rotate about a second part of the connecting device about the axis,

the means for axial displacement comprises

means for controlling a relative displacement between the first part and the second part along the axis and

the means for transverse displacement comprises

at least one sliding block configured to move onto the first part of the connecting device along a direction approximately radial with respect to the axis, the sliding block also forming part of the second clamping means.

31. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 28, in which the first clamping means, the second clamping means, and the means for axial displacement are activated by a single control device.

32. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 31, in which the single control device is a screw, anchored free to rotate on the connecting device, the screw acting on thrust rods forming the first clamping means and the means for axial displacement, and acting on jaws forming the second clamping means, through control rods articulated on the connecting device, on a nut

engaged on the screw, on the thrust rods and the jaws, and the means for transverse displacement comprises thrust pads anchored on the connecting device.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The fastening device according to claim 28, in which the first clamping ~~means~~members, the transverse displacement means, and the axial displacement means are activated by a single control device and the second clamping means comprises a separate attachment device.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The fastening device according to claim 33, in which the single control device is a screw, anchored free to rotate on the connecting device, the screw acting on claws forming the first clamping ~~means~~members, the means for axial displacement, and the means for transverse displacement, through a nut engaged on the screw and on which the claws are articulated.

35-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A ~~connecting-fastening~~ device adapted for use with a transport ~~housing-basket~~ capable of containing a fuel assembly therein, the transport basket comprising a head plate, at least one tubular wall having an open end fixed on the head plate, the transport basket oriented along a longitudinal axis, each tubular wall the transport basket configured to receive the at least one fuel assembly wherein the at least one fuel assembly is oriented along the longitudinal axis within the transport basket, wherein the fastening device comprising comprises:

a clamping member configured to mount the device to a head plate of the transport housing;

a control device positioned above the open end of the transport basket and configured to freely rotate ~~along a~~ about the longitudinal axis, wherein at least a portion of the control device vertically moves along the longitudinal axis upon being rotated in a first direction;

a claw mechanism operably coupled to the control device, wherein the claw mechanism ~~is configured to~~ pivots between a retracted position and an extended position in response to rotation of the control device, wherein the claw mechanism ~~is engageable to~~ engages an upper end piece of the fuel assembly when in the extended position ~~transport housing~~ and moves the upper end piece along with the control device in an upward direction in the longitudinal axis in response to the control device being rotated in the first direction to suspend the fuel assembly within the transport basket.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The fastening device according to claim 41 further comprising: a pin guide coupled to the ~~body~~ head plate, the pin guide having a stop surface configured to come into contact with the upper end piece of the fuel assembly within the transport basket. ~~an upper end piece within the transport housing when the device is securely engaged with the transport housing.~~

43. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The fastening device according to claim 42, wherein the claw mechanism is configured to upwardly move the upper end piece along the longitudinal axis until the upper end piece is securely in contact with the stop surface of the pin guide in response to the control device being further rotated in the first direction.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The fastening device according to claim 41, further comprising a nut coupled to the control device and the claw mechanism, the nut being operable

to move along the longitudinal axis in response to rotation of the control device, wherein rotation of the control device in ~~[[a]]~~ the first ~~rotational~~ direction causes the nut to move upward along the longitudinal axis and cause the claw mechanism to pivot outward away from the longitudinal axis.

45-46. (Cancelled)